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Adviser Walt Rostow is a busy exponent of the "Vietnam

policy—and is still enthusiastic about it

The Most Happy Fellow in the White House

by **THOMAS
B. MORGAN**

An unusual discovery in this season of discontent would be an absolutely doubt-free human being. But Walt Whitman Rostow, who plays a singular role in the process of making Vietnam decisions as Special Assistant to the President for national security matters, comes close. Unfazed by antiwar protests in Congress or in the streets, Rostow is perhaps the most happy fella in the White House, a zealous Johnsonian convinced that our Vietnam policy is "on the right track." Getting to know him, one gets a better understanding of that policy.

The political, economic and military aspects of foreign affairs have

been Rostow's study for nearly 30 years, out of Yale and Oxford, by way of the graduate faculty in economic history at M.I.T. Among his many books and essays are portraits of Soviet and Chinese society, an analysis of America's "national style," a widely respected theory of economic development and a tract on—of all things—target selection for World War II bombing raids on occupied Europe. Rostow is an especially staunch advocate of the efficacy of bombing North Vietnam. He has been a consultant to every postwar administration in Washington and, since 1961, a full-time federal bureaucrat, one of the new breed of

"action intellectuals." On Lyndon Johnson and his foreign policy, he has become an unembarrassable partisan.

The interesting thing about President Johnson," Rostow says, "is that in the face of this grueling test in Vietnam, he can carry on a global foreign policy. The way he balances his attention and energy is one of the most admirable things in modern presidential history. The strength and grace of the man! To have the will and the time! I'm proud to have a chance to work with him at this searching interval."

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ROSTOW, WALT

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